

News from the Savannah River Site

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For Immediate Release

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Millions of Gallons of High-Level Waste Safely Moved at SRS in 2014

AIKEN, S.C. (February 11, 2015) – The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) liquid waste contractor, Savannah River Remediation (SRR), transferred more than 20 million gallons of high-level waste within the Savannah River Site’s (SRS) waste tanks and facilities in 2014.

While not a record year, it represents more than 1,170 different times the liquid waste was transferred to safely manage the 37 million gallon inventory, treat the waste and to clean waste tanks, which leads to the operational closing of the tanks, said SRR President and Project Manager Stuart MacVean.

“While treating, dispositioning and immobilizing high-level waste receives most of the attention, our employees are doing a tremendous job of continuing to safely keep our waste in the right place at the right time,” MacVean said. “Their work may be unheralded at times, but it is the foundation on which we keep the liquid waste mission moving forward.”

SRR has to manage waste to keep the Site functioning. Moving waste through the system positions it for disposition and makes room in waste tanks for Site work while preparing waste tanks for closure.

SRR receives waste from H Canyon operations and the Site’s laboratories, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, and from normal waste processing and disposition activities. There are 305 transfer lines, comprising approximately 21 miles, which are available for waste transfers.

“Without these necessary transfers,” MacVean said, “Many Site operations would be hindered or have to shut down.”

(more)

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U S D E P A R T M E N T O F E N E R G Y • A I K E N • S C 2 9 8 0 8

Page 2 Waste Transfers

Jim Folk, DOE-Savannah River Acting Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Project, said that transferring liquid waste within SRS is fundamental but critical to Site operations.

“Moving this very large amount of waste takes a lot of planning and skill,” Folk said. “The liquid waste system is much like a major freeway with a lot of traffic, on and off ramps, one-way flow and certain destinations. Much of the Site’s work related to transferring waste doesn’t get the headlines, but we all know it’s critical.”

SRR is composed of a team of companies led by AECOM with partners Bechtel National, CH2M HILL and Babcock & Wilcox. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, EnergySolutions and URS Professional Solutions.

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